



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Jewel Cave
National Monument

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Jewel Cave National Monument News Release

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New Staff Joins Jewel Cave Team

Custer, SD – Two new management team members have recently joined the staff of Jewel Cave National Monument. Chief Park Ranger and Safety Officer David Yim arrived in November, filling a position that had been vacant since 1998. John Black, Chief of Maintenance, arrived in January.

Yim most recently served as the Emergency Services Coordinator at Big Bend National Park in southern Texas for the structural fire, search and rescue, and emergency medical services programs. He has 23 years of experience with the National Park Service (NPS), including work at Natural Bridges National Monument (Utah), Lake Mead National Recreation Area (Nevada), Grand Canyon National Park (Arizona), Death Valley National Park (California), and Yosemite National Park (California). He has held a NPS Law Enforcement Commission for all 23 years and has been a Park Medic for 19 years. He also maintains firearms instructor, wildland firefighter, and structural fire engineer certifications.

A native of California, Yim earned an Associate Degree in Criminal Justice from Moorpark Community College. He moved to the Black Hills with his long time girlfriend, Jen, who also works for the NPS at Devils Tower National Monument. Yim comments, “I have enjoyed my time this winter in the Black Hills and have met a number of wonderful people. Jewel Cave has a dynamic team, and the nearby cities of Custer and Newcastle offer some partnerships that will enhance the existing relationships between Jewel Cave and its Gateway Communities.” Since his arrival, Yim has been a member of the Custer County Search and Rescue Team.

Superintendent Larry Johnson said, “We are excited to have David join our staff, as he brings a wealth of experience in visitor and resource protection services and safety programs. We are looking forward to his help as we continue to strengthen our protection and safety programs.”

John Black, a thirteen year NPS veteran, started his career in building maintenance at Badlands National Park where he worked for five years. Black then transferred to the newly established Minute Man Missile National Historic Site where he served as the site’s first maintenance employee. After four years, he became the Chief of Maintenance and most recently was involved in the planning of the site’s Visitor Center, slated for construction in 2013

Originally from Pennsylvania, Black came to South Dakota in 1997. He has three children, Kalie, Tyler, and Larkin. Tyler and Larkin are enrolled in the Custer School District. Black states, “I am looking forward to the increased challenges that will come with my new position. The staff and leadership team at Jewel Cave are a great group of people, and I have enjoyed working with them. I hope to add to the positive environment at the Monument, and my family is gearing up to explore the Black Hills this spring and summer.”

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“John brings a proven track record within the field of facility operations and maintenance. His strong skills are complemented by his grasp of the administrative aspects of park planning. We are pleased to have John join the Jewel Cave management team as we continue to improve and strengthen our facilities infrastructure,” Johnson said.

Jewel Cave National Monument is open year round, with current off-season hours of 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Cave tours are available on a daily basis. For more information, visit the Monument online at www.nps.gov/jeca or call the visitor center directly at (605) 673-8300 and select Option 2.



Caption – Ranger David Yim (left) and Chief of Maintenance John Black (right) join the team at Jewel Cave National Monument.

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